

STATE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

FINAL CEREAL HARVEST FORECAST, 1939-40.

I. ESTIMATED YIELDS 1939-40 (1938-39 Actual in parentheses).

Wheat	35,000,000	(32,577,767)	bushels.	Average 12.50	(10.52)	bush.
Barley	9,250,000	(7,541,090)	bushels.	Average 18.14	(16.50)	bush.
Oats	3,500,000	(2,401,128)	bushels.	Average 9.72	(9.00)	bush.
Hay(W. & O.)	580,000	(558,043)	tons	Average 1.14	(1.12)	tons

II. REMARKS - WHEAT FORECAST.

A preliminary forecast was issued in November based on reports received from collectors during the first week in that month. The reports then received indicated a yield of 33,000,000 bushels of wheat. The early November rains proved of more benefit than at first expected, and the present reports indicate a yield of 35,000,000 bushels.

III. WHEAT YIELDS AND AVERAGES IN PRINCIPAL COUNTIES, 1939-40 & 1938-39.

County	1939-40		1938-39		County	1939-40		1938-39	
	Bush. ,000	Per acre	Bush. ,000	Per acre		Bush. ,000	Per acre	Bush. ,000	Per acre
Eyre	275	4.0	404	5.5	Dufferin	520	8.9	508	7.4
Fergusson	2575	20.0	2565	18.2	Flinders	975	9.7	947	12.5
Gawler	1800	18.8	1504	14.8	Jervois	2450	12.2	1860	9.1
Light	1450	18.6	1542	18.8	Le Hunte	850	8.7	849	8.1
Daly	4250	16.3	3932	13.7	Musgrave	650	12.7	651	11.1
Stanley	4550	20.4	4241	17.9	Robinson	1050	9.3	993	8.3
Victoria	3250	17.9	2750	14.2	Way	650	8.5	506	6.3
Dalhousie	1000	12.6	626	7.0	Albert	500	3.3	852	4.8
Frome	1900	13.7	951	6.4	Alfred	1120	6.3	1030	5.0
Buckingham	540	25.1	434	16.2	Buccleuch	600	6.3	711	5.9
Buxton	775	9.8	555	7.1	Chandos	830	6.5	1291	8.8

IV. RAINFALL - AGRICULTURAL AREAS, 1939. (Mean for previous 34 years in parentheses). Taking the agricultural areas of the State as a whole, the rainfall from April to July was approximately the same as the mean - 6.58 (6.66) inches, and the crops were growing nicely during that period. August was exceptionally wet with a State average of 3.20 (1.98) inches and at that time it did not seem unreasonable to expect a record yield per acre. Then there was a change for the worse, both September and October being exceptionally dry, for those two months the State average being only 1.50 (2.96) inches. This dry spell unfortunately was also accompanied by hot drying winds, and in some districts severe damage was caused by frosts. The Central, Lower North and South Eastern Divisions were able to withstand the dry spell fairly well, but crops deteriorated badly in the other Divisions, especially the Murray Mallee where the winter rains had not been so good as in the rest of the State. Further deterioration was averted by the exceptionally heavy falls on the 31st October and following days, and late crops received great benefit, but the rain was too late in many cases, especially in the marginal areas. Fortunately, very few districts report damage from rust, takeall, grasshoppers &c.

Months	STATE		DIVISIONS 1939					
	1939	Mean 34 yrs	Central	Lower North	Upper North	South East.	Westn.	Murray Mallee
	In.	In.	In.	In.	In.	In.	In.	In.
April	1.07	.93	1.47	.64	.98	3.05	.47	.79
May	1.23	1.74	1.56	1.13	1.11	1.69	1.01	1.23
June	2.65	2.07	3.39	2.25	2.83	4.17	2.38	1.35
July	1.63	1.92	1.84	1.51	1.46	1.10	2.13	.90
August	3.20	1.98	3.86	3.74	1.70	4.78	3.21	1.96
September	.61	1.67	.70	.74	.25	1.82	.28	.48
October	.89	1.29	1.09	.70	.28	1.89	.82	.60
November	2.34	.90	3.18	2.67	1.97	2.43	1.97	2.42
Total 1939	13.62	-	17.09	13.38	10.58	20.93	12.27	9.73
Mean 34 years	-	12.50	15.88	12.12	8.74	19.26	10.97	10.29

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FINAL CEREAL HARVEST FORECAST, 1939-40.

		Estimated 1939-40	Actual 1938-39	Mean 5 seasons to 1938-39
A R E A S C R O P P E D.				
		Acres	Acres	Acres
All Purposes	Wheat	3,040,000	3,344,264	3,335,916
	Barley	560,000	505,345	404,923
	Oats	840,000	697,470	724,604
	Total	4,440,000	4,547,079	4,465,443
For Grain	Wheat	2,800,000	3,080,401	3,095,663
	Barley	510,000	457,039	376,687
	Oats	360,000	266,842	336,192
	Total	3,670,000	3,804,282	3,808,542
For Hay	Wheat	210,000	227,604	228,687
	Oats	300,000	270,425	301,312
	Total W & O.	510,000	498,029	529,999
Fed Off &c.	Wheat	30,000	36,259	11,566
	Barley(inc.Hay)	50,000	48,306	28,236
	Oats	180,000	160,203	87,101
	Total	260,000	244,768	126,903
P R O D U C T I O N		- TOTAL YIELDS AND AVERAGES.		
W H E A T.	Divisions	Bushels	Bushels	Bushels
	Central	7,000,000 15.91	6,911,067 14.64	7,133,207 14.56
	Lower North	12,500,000 17.86	11,331,780 14.99	11,160,258 14.89
	Upper North	3,300,000 12.45	1,641,270 5.75	2,372,115 8.06
	South Eastern	750,000 23.81	584,328 15.01	624,776 19.48
	Western	8,200,000 10.60	7,121,186 8.57	6,208,212 7.27
	Murray Mallee	3,250,000 5.51	4,084,787 5.86	5,079,199 7.52
	Total	35,000,000 12.50	31,674,418 10.28	32,577,767 10.52
BARLEY		9,250,000 18.14	7,541,090 16.50	6,525,100 17.32
OATS		3,500,000 9.72	2,401,128 9.00	2,503,781 7.45
HAY	Wheaten	Tons 260,000	Tons 293,681	Tons 273,288
	Oaten	320,000	264,362	285,429
	Total W. & O.	580,000 1.14	558,043 1.12	558,717 1.05

Method of Estimating - The Wheat areas are subdivided into 500 Districts and estimates are made for each of these. Acreage Sown - At beginning of season, the area to be sown is obtained from all farmers, and adjusted as per reports received after sowing.

Tabulation - General Reports are obtained from Police Officers for each District and through them this year 20% of the farmers, representing over 25% of the acreage sown, reported their prospects as at end of November.